



Testimony in Support of SB 957, An Act Concerning the oversight of Health Care in Correctional Institutions by the Department of Public Health

Dear Chairs Anwar and McCarthy Vahey, Vice Chairs Kushner, Marx, and Parker, and Members of the Public Health Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is Noam Bellin-Schonfeld and I am a resident of New Haven, Connecticut. In solidarity with the Yale College Democrats and Regulate DOC Healthcare CT Coalition, I stand in support of **SB957, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERSIGHT OF HEALTH CARE IN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.**

Connecticut is currently the only state where the Department of Corrections oversees and operates its own healthcare system. Last year the Public health Committee sought to set forth actions to address these issues with SB 448 which became PA 22-133. We request that the Public Health Committee step forward as courageously as it did last year and implement regulation and oversight of the department of Corrections Healthcare system.

Current challenges in the Department of Corrections healthcare system are contributing to poor health outcomes for incarcerated individuals, returning citizens and economic burdens on their families. Poor health is expensive. Connecticut has paid out millions of dollars in lawsuits related to medical negligence with the Department of Corrections. However, there is a deeper cost to families and communities of returning citizens. Access to healthcare for incarcerated persons is a constitutional right covered by the 4th, 8th and 14th amendment; it should be affordable.

The Precedent for the implementation of such a bill as SB 957 is enormous., 46 States are currently being regulated by the National Commission of Correctional Healthcare (NCCHC), meaning CT is one of only four states not in line with this common policy

In closing, I urge you to vote YES on **SB957 AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERSIGHT OF HEALTH CARE IN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.**

Thank you
Noam Bellin-Schonfeld